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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT OB, Organization of PRONO, and
Miscellaneous Military Information

DATE DISTR. 4 Feb. 1955

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1X This report was prepared by a Department of the Army interrogator and is forwarded essentially as received.

ORDER OF BATTLE

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1. Military Districts

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
1st, 2d, 3d Sofia Military Districts	Unk	Sofia, corner of Serdika and Triaditsa ulitsa	Unk

These were purely administrative units with a lieutenant colonel in charge and with a few soldiers who did office work. These units were not military districts, in the usual sense of the word in the USSR or its Satellites, but were draft-registration offices which corresponded to the three "military districts" into which Sofia was divided.

2. Reception Centers

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
U/1 reception point for inductees	Unk	Sofia: Stalin Elementary School on Klokotnitsa ulitsa	Unk

This was one of a number of reception points called kommandos. Source believed that these kommandos were normally numbered from one to twelve although other numbers were also used. These numbers were

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probably arbitrarily-chosen and had no definite recurring pattern. They were subject to change and were, in fact, codes which indicated the induction station to be used by a group of draftees and their ultimate assignment or destination. On 28 October 1952, Kommando No. 11 was designated to both the reception point and to all inductees who reported there who were destined for assignment with infantry troops along the Turkish border. On 1 February 1953, Kommando No. 200 was designated to both the reception point and to source's group which was destined for duty with the Labor Troops Brigade (Trudova Brigada).¹ Army and labor service personnel were inducted through these reception points, but source did not know about reception points for other armed services, including the security forces.

3. Military Construction

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Capital Construction Office (KEO)	Ministry of National Defense	Sofia	35470

The Capital Construction Office (Kvartirno Eksploatatsiono Odelene - KEO - also known as Kapitalno Stroitelstvo) supervised and initiated all military construction in Bulgaria. In September 1953, its chief was Lt Col KOYNOV (fnu).²

4. Planning and Administration

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Planning Organization of the Ministry of National Defense (PRONO)	Ministry of National Defense	Sofia	Unk

PRONO was a civilian organization which worked only for military needs. It planned all construction of casernes, stables, warehouses, ammunition dumps, etc. (See page 7 for an organizational chart of PRONO). In September 1953, the director was Rasho Rashev.² Although directly under the Ministry of National Defense, PRONO received occasional orders and directives directly from KEO.

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Chief Administration of Labor Troops Brigade	Council of Ministers	Sofia, Tsar Krum ulitsa	1300 (?)

Up to about May 1954, this agency was under the Ministry of National Defense. The director was a Trudovak colonel, DIMOV (fnu).²

5. Repair Shop

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Fabrika Gorna Banya (Gorna Banya Factory)	Chief Administration of Labor Service	Gorna Banya, southwest of suburban Sofia	Unk

Lt Col TRIFUNOV (fnu), of the Labor Troops Brigade, was in charge but was relieved and demoted for neglect of duty in summer 1953. The factory was an automotive repair shop for government civilian and military vehicles. It employed about 100 workers and repaired trucks, tractors, and pneumatic drills.

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6. Labor Service Units

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
2800th Labor Brigade	Chief Administration of Labor Service	Suchodol, 5 km west of Sofia	2800

In March 1953, the CO was a Trudovak Lieutenant colonel, STOYADINOV (fnu).

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
2830th Labor Battalion	2800th Labor Brigade	Vidin (N 44-00, E 22-51)	2830

The CO was an unknown Trudovak captain. Source believed the unit had moved. (Date of information: March 1953).

<u>Unit or Agency</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
2860 Labor Company	2830 Labor Battalion	Zhivovtsi (N 43-24, E 23-08)	2860

(Date of information: March 1953) The CO was a Trudovak first lieutenant. The company had only two three-ton trucks and two horse-drawn vehicles, all of which were used to haul supplies for construction work.

The organization of labor units was flexible. Thus, a company consisted of from 30 to 300 male workers, depending on the particular job. There were about three to four officers in a company. The labor troops wore green uniforms in the summer and brown uniforms in the winter. Formerly, their shoulder boards had been similar to those of the Bulgarian Army; however, after March 1953, labor troops no longer wore shoulder boards but wore their rank insignia on the lapel of their blouses in the form of collar flashes. The caps differed from the army caps in that they had ear flaps and dull visors.

Personnel of labor units consisted of: those who were not physically fit for military service, those who were politically unreliable (so-called fascists), and certain individuals who did not clearly fall into either of the two other categories. Source was not politically suspect, although he was not a Communist, and only volunteered for the labor troops for reasons of personal convenience and to avoid military duty. Generally, the percentage of politically-reliable persons in labor units was very small. Source received two leva a month while he served with the labor company. This amount paid for either five fares on the street car, one movie, or five bottles of lemonade. Labor troops received no tobacco ration.

7. Buildings and Residences

<u>Building</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Apartment building for Soviet specialists	Ministry of War	Sofia, Stalin ulitsa	Unk

About ten families of Soviet specialists lived in this apartment building. Source believed it housed very important Soviet specialists because it was originally intended for Bulgarian generals and high officials. The Soviet specialists usually wore civilian clothes.

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<u>Building</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Residence of the Minister of War	Ministry of War	Sofia, Zagore ulitsa, No. 4 or 6 (?)	Unk

Col Gen PANCHEVSKIY, the highest-ranking officer in the Bulgarian Army, lived on the ground floor of this building. An unidentified Soviet specialist occupied the second (top) floor. The house was guarded inside and outside.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Subordination</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FPN</u>
Building of the Ministry of War	Ministry of War	Sofia, Dondukov ulitsa, opposite the Balkan Theater.	Unk

This building housed about 130 families of Bulgarian officials, including 20 to 30 families of Soviet specialists.

MILITARY FORTIFICATIONS

8. See page 8 for the pinpoint location of trenches and MG nests in the vicinity of Zhivovtsi.³

VEHICLE NUMBERS

9. All military vehicles had white license plates with red letters and numbers. The prefix "B" (pronounced "V" for voyska) indicated that the vehicle belonged to the Bulgarian Army. The prefix, "TB" (pronounced "GV" for granichno voyska) indicated that the vehicle belonged to border guard troops. The prefix "BB" (pronounced "VV" for vozdushny voysky) indicated that the vehicle belonged to the Bulgarian Air Force. The prefixes were usually followed by five numbers.
10. Many military vehicles, usually Skoda sedans, bore civilian license plates and were especially reserved for Soviet military specialists who worked in Bulgaria. Civilian license plates were white with black letters and numbers. The prefix "Cø" (pronounced "SF" for Sofia) was usually followed by two groups of two numbers each and separated by a hyphen, e.g., Cø 25-33. These cars were usually driven by Bulgarians in uniform. All of these cars, used by Soviet personnel, were kept in a garage on Serdika ulitsa, 25 (?), in Sofia, near the intersection of Serdika ulitsa with St. Cyril ulitsa and Metodi ulitsa. Source installed a heating system in this garage. Soviet personnel almost always wore civilian clothes; however, in rare instances, he saw some in uniform but could remember no details of the uniform.

MILITARY MANPOWER AND MILITARY EDUCATION

Reserves

11. Bulgarian Army reserve officers were partially drawn from the better-educated draftees. Source emphasized that, even under the Communist regime at this time, education still played an important part. A secret unpublished law, passed about May or June 1954, stated that anyone with a higher education (university) who did not accept a reserve commission before May or June 1954, and who had attended a university prior to the introduction of military training, would be inducted as a soldier. An individual would then have to remain in the army only one year instead of three; most Bulgarians had heard and knew about this law. Source benefited from it and only served one year with the Labor Troops Brigade; however, this law did not apply to anyone who accepted a reserve commission. For instance, source had a friend with a university education who was drafted as an EM before that date and, after serving about two years, went to an OCS school and became a reserve officer (junior lieutenant) after graduation. Source knew no further details about the

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school, the duration, or the contents of the course. Source knew that his friend and other reserve officers were recalled for periodic tours of active duty and refresher training but knew none of the details.

12. Source knew a retired Bulgarian lieutenant colonel who, after serving an unspecified period of time in the regular army, was considered a reserve lieutenant colonel and could have been recalled as a lieutenant colonel in case of war.
13. Since 1950 or 1951, all university and higher-technical school students, male and female, have had to undergo compulsory military training. Source believed that they had at least 10 hours a week of military subjects because there had been some talk of the heavy study-loads. In addition to the 10 hours of military subjects, students had to take about 30 hours of other subjects. Source was not required to participate in the university-level compulsory military training program because his class could not have completed the military training by graduation time. Source considered this a handicap to the future careers of the members of his class because students he knew who completed this military training and who were politically-reliable became reserve officers and did not have to serve as ordinary soldiers.

Women in the Armed Forces

14. Source observed many women in uniform. A large number of female military personnel were in the Bulgarian armed forces, and he had even seen women who were air force pilots. He could not, however, list any specific duties of women in the armed forces nor give any further details on them. He believed that they fully-participated in all military training, that they served under the same conditions as the men, and that they all served voluntarily.

STATE SECURITY PERSONNEL UNIFORMS

15. State security personnel could be most easily distinguished by their light blue caps and the light blue piping on their shoulder boards; otherwise, their uniform was similar to that of the army personnel. Source saw women in the state security service only rarely but had seen a female lieutenant colonel of the state security service in Sofia, several times.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment: Apparently, the same physical reception point could have different numbers, from time to time, or possibly more than one number when groups entered at the same time but had different destinations.

2. [REDACTED] for biographic information on Koynov, Rashev, Dimov, Mitov, Mishonov, and Kassianov.

3. [REDACTED] Comment: Source was asked to give some estimate of the numbers and dimensions of trenches which could be dug by labor units. He estimated that a labor brigade, comprising an estimated minimum of 1,000 workers, could dig from 900 to 1,000 km of trenches a year. (1,000 men digging an average of three meters a day each for 300 days in the year.) Source considered this a conservative estimate.

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Legend to the Organizational Chart of PRONO (Planning Organization of the Ministry of National Defense (page 7)

1. Director - Rascho Rashev, an architect.
2. Chief Engineer - Luben Mitov, an engineer.²
3. Technical Control Section - Comprised of approximately five to six employees, this section checked, approved, and signed each project. The section was headed by Grozhdanov (fnu), an engineer, who was 35 years old and a Communist. He was liked by his men and lived with Mitov.
4. Personnel Section - Comprised of approximately three persons. The chief was a woman, Konova (fnu), about 25 years old and a Communist.
5. Political Officer (or Deputy for Political Matters) - This officer was the only Bulgarian Army officer among the executive or administrative personnel. He was about 45 years old but source cannot remember his name.
6. Architectural Sections (2) - Each section had about 10 to 15 persons; it was split only because of the large number of personnel; however, they apparently did the same work, which was the architectural planning for all military constructions.
7. Engineering Section - About 20 persons worked in this section which concerned itself with construction-engineering plans.
8. Water Supply and Canalization Section - About 10 persons worked in this section.
- 25X1A 9. Mechanical Section - About seven to eight persons worked here and made plans for heating and ventilation installations, air raid shelters, kitchen installations, public baths, laundries, and POL dumps. 25X1A [REDACTED]
10. Electrical Section - Source knew only that this section consisted of six persons.
11. Air Force Section - This section consisted almost exclusively of air force officers. There were about 15 to 20. Some wore uniforms, others did not. Until 1 February 1953, they were directly under the Bulgarian Air Force and were not a part of PRONO. After that date, they became an integral part of PRONO. The chiefs were a Major, (Eng.) MISHONOV (fnu) and Major (Eng.) KASSIANOV (fnu)². This section planned airfields.
12. Highway Section - Approximately six persons worked in this section, which planned highways and roads.
13. Estimates Section - Ten to fifteen persons made estimates on labor and material of the various military construction projects.
14. Publications Section - About five or six persons performed purely mechanical tasks in this section which consisted of gathering reports, binding them, and processing them. This section also kept unclassified printed matter on file.
15. Secret Section - This section had three or four persons who classified plans and documents.
16. Accounting Section - Seven or eight persons worked in this section.
17. Typing Section - About seven typists worked in this section.

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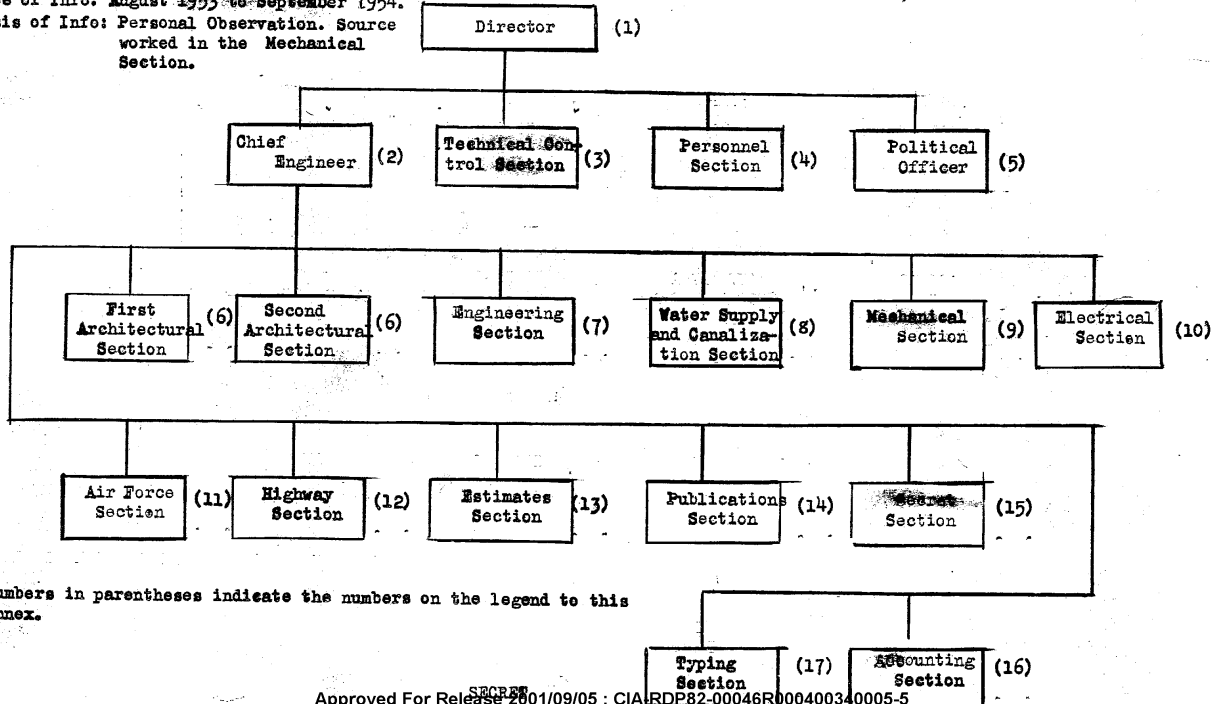
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Annex A

Organizational Chart of PROMO (Planning Organization of the Ministry of National Defense) Bulgaria

Date of Info: August 1953 to September 1954.

Basis of Info: Personal Observation. Source worked in the Mechanical Section.



Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate the numbers on the legend to this annex.

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Trenches Located in the Vicinity of Zhivovtsi4330
+
2310

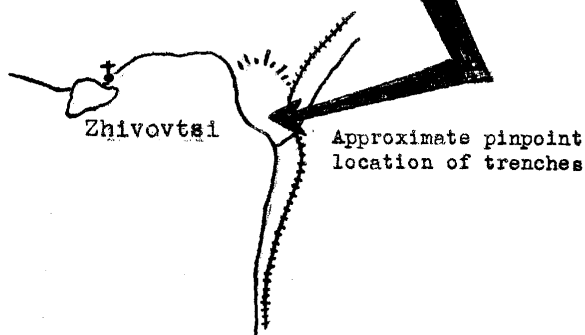
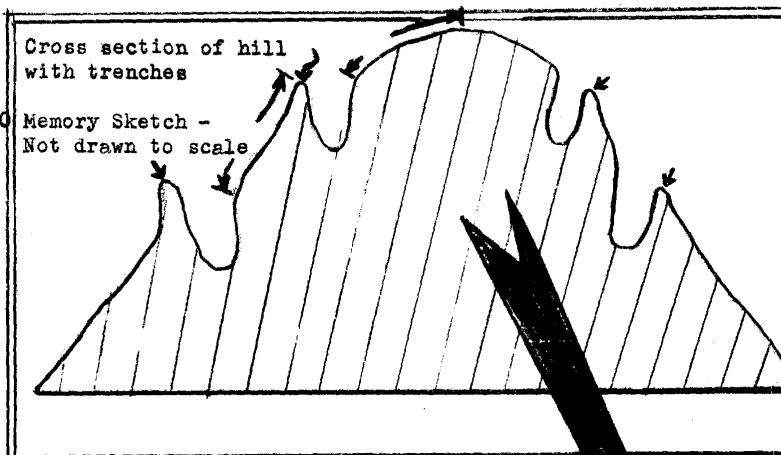
Map Ref:
Sheet V3, WRAZA
Bulgaria
Scale 1:100,000

Date of Info:
Feb-Mar 53

Basis of Info:

Cross section of hill
with trenches

Memory Sketch -
Not drawn to scale



2300
+
4320

NOTE: Each of the trenches was approx 110 cm deep, 1 m wide at the top, and 50 cm wide at the bottom. They were arranged as two concentric circles around the hillside. The first was about 20 m from the summit of the hill; the second was dug about 30-40 m from the first. Earth was piled in front of them to form a sort of breastwork. Source stated that earthen MG emplacements were built along the trenches, but he did not see any of them. Source added that he was required to dig 4-5 m each day he worked on the trenches. He noticed that they did not withstand bad weather and that rains would wash most of them away.

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